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Today's Topics:

 Scanning the food service industry

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FOOD SERVICE SCANNER FREQUENCIES

by Bob Parnass, AJ9S

How do food services and restaurants use radio communication? Fancier restaurants have been known to equip their waiters and waitresses with paging receivers. Catering vans and pizza delivery trucks are sometimes equipped with two-way radios. Fast food restaurants, like McDonald's, use low power headsets so workers can communicate among themselves and with customers.

Marvin Hand's article, "From Drive-In to Drive-Thru," in April 15, 1988 Sound & Video Contractor magazine, describes the wireless communications systems used by the fast food industry. HM Electronics (HME) of San Diego furnishes the equipment I've seen in McDonald's restaurants, which is licensed under FCC Part 90. Order takers wear their PR-4 belt-pac COMMUNICATOR transceivers around the waste, with attached headset.

Marvin's article stated that "when a car drives up, a detector senses the presence of the vehicle and sends a message over cables to a base stations located on a wall inside the restaurant. The base station then transmits a coded tone to each of the units via radio signals."

The order take is then alerted by a tone in the headset that a customer is present. By depressing a button on the belt-pac, the order taker can greet the customer. The customer places the order, which is simultaneously transmitted to all drive-thru personnel, so food prepara-

tion can begin immediately. If there are questions about a specific order, belt-pac equipped personnel can press an internal intercom button to review the order with the order taker. The intercom mode transmits only to other workers, not the customer.

Marvin implies the NiCd batteries in the belt-pacs last for 18 hours between fast charges!

The following list contains a sampling of Chicagoland food services using radio equipment.

Key:

2w = low power

pg = paging

Alfano's Pizza, restaurant			
	[DeKalb]_____	461.5500____	KTb570 (govt recds)
ARA Leisure Svcs, vending machines & food svc			
	[Rosemont]_____	461.8375_2w_	call? (govt recds)
"	"	462.9125_2w_	call? (govt recds)
"	"	463.2875_2w_	call? (govt recds)
"	"	463.3625_2w_	call? (govt recds)
"	"	463.5875_2w_	call? (govt recds)
"	"	463.8125_2w_	call? (govt recds)
ARA Leisure Svcs, vending machines and food svc			
	[USA-wide]_____	469.5000_mo_	KB78203 (govt recds)
ARA Svcs Inc, food svc at McCormick Place, PL3A			
	[Chicago]_____	464.4750____	WNGL295 (others)
ARA Svcs Inc, vending machines & food svc, used at Rosemont Horizon			
	[Rosemont]_____	468.9625_2w_	call? (others)
ARA Svcs Inc, vending machines & food svc			
	[Chicago]_____	463.2500____	KBM335 (govt recds)
"	"	853.3875____	call? (govt recds)
"	[Illinois]_____	461.0250____	KA96047 (govt recds)
"	"	461.5000____	KA96047 (govt recds)
"	"	467.8750_2w_	KA73943 (govt recds)
"	"	808.9375____	K08420 (govt recds)
"	[St Charles]_____	154.5700_2w_	KTR909 (govt recds)
"	"	154.6000_2w_	KB43439 (govt recds)
ARAServ Inc, vending machines & food svc			
	[Illinois]_____	467.9250_2w_	KA96047 (govt recds)
Arlington Park Racetrack, sports, PL2Z, Ditka's Restaurant			
	[Arlington Hts]_____	461.0375_2w_	call? (others)
Bloomers Restaurant & Bar aka/K & K Mgt			
	[Oakbrook Terrace]__	464.8875_2w_	call? (govt recds)
Burger King Corp, restaurant			

	[Illinois]_____	460.8875_2w_KD20051	(govt recds)
"	[Orland Park]_____	457.5625_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	467.7875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Burger King Corp, wireless microphone, drive up window to order taker, restaurant at Fox Valley Mall	[Aurora]_____	457.5625_2w_call?	(B. Parnass)
Burger King Corp, wireless microphone, order taker to drive up window, restaurant at Fox Valley Mall	[Aurora]_____	467.7875_2w_call?	(B. Parnass)
Coach House, hotel, restaurant	[Chicago Hts]_____	151.9250____KNDN795	(govt recds)
Connie's Pizzeria, restaurant aka/MLB of Naperville	[Naperville]_____	464.3750____KNEW689	(govt recds)
Connies Inc, restaurant?	[Lagrange]_____	31.0000____KNAQ428	(govt recds)
Ditka's Restaurant at Arlington Park Racetrack, PL2Z	[Arlington Hts]_____	461.0375_2w_call?	(others)
Fox's Pub aka/Oaklawn Pub, S Fox, waitress paging, restaurant	[Oaklawn]_____	152.4800_pg_KNAU264	(others)
Georgis Restaurant_____	[Chicago]_____	154.5150____KAT257	(govt recds)
Golf Mill Shopping Center, maintenance, food svc	[Niles]_____	462.1125_2w_call?	(others)
Great America, Marriott's, retail food svc, entertainment	[Gurnee]_____	464.6750____call?	(others)
Hamiltons Lounge Inc, restaurant?	[Chicago]_____	151.8350____KNCJ702	(govt recds)
Hardees, restaurants____	[Illinois]_____	457.5750_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	461.1125_2w_KB82638	(govt recds)
"	"	467.8000_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	[Joliet]_____	30.8400_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	[Lebanon]_____	170.3050____call?	(govt recds)
"	"	31.0000____call?	(govt recds)
Hardees, wireless microphone, at Louis Joliet Mall, restaurants	[Joliet]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(B. Parnass)
Hillary's Water Tower Place, restaurant, paging	[Chicago]_____	154.6250_pg_KOB508	(others)
Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant, PL5A	[Maywood]_____	457.5875_2w_call?	(others)
"	"	477.8125____call?	(others)
Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant	[Illinois]_____	457.5875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	467.8125_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Leona's Restaurant_____	[Chicago]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	30.8400_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Little Italian restaurant aka/Del Sue Inc, pizza delivery cars	[Naperville]_____	151.8650____KGU974	(B. Parnass)
Maggie Murphy's Restaurant	[Highland Park]_____	157.7400_pg_KER451	(govt recds)

McDonald's Corp aka/South Suburban En, restaurant, wireless microphone	[Homewood]_____	170.2450___KB86779	(govt recds)
McDonald's Corp, Louis Joliet Mall, restaurant, wireless microphone	[Joliet]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(B. Parnass)
McDonald's Corp, Naper Blvd, restaurant, wireless microphone	[Naperville]_____	151.8950___call?	(govt recds)
"	"	154.6000_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	33.1400_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	35.0200_2w_call?	(govt recds)
McDonald's Corp, restaurant, wireless microphone, attendant	[Downers Grove]_____	467.7750_2w_call?	(others)
McDonald's Corp, restaurant, wireless microphone, customer and attendant	[Downers Grove]_____	457.5500_2w_call?	(others)
McDonald's Corp, restaurant	[Illinois]_____	151.8950___KB79858	(govt recds)
"	"	33.1400_2w_KB79858	(govt recds)
McDonald's Corp/aka Chicago Regional McDonalds, restaurant, wireless microphone, order taker to drive-up window, in Aurora (Fox Valley Mall), Montgomery, Yorkville	[Illinois]_____	154.6000_2w_KB63677	(B. Parnass)
McDonald's Corp/aka Chicago Regional McDonalds, restaurant, wireless microphone, order taker to drive-up window	[Hinsdale]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(others)
"	[Homewood]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(others)
McDonald's Restaurant aka/Wright Management, 2702 W. Peterson	[Chicago]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	170.2450___call?	(govt recds)
"	"	171.1050___call?	(govt recds)
McDonald's Restaurant__	[Illinois]_____	464.5875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	[St Charles]_____	464.5125_2w_call?	(govt recds)
McDonalds Corporation, restaurants, wireless microphone, drive-up window to order taker and order taker to drive-up window, very low power	[Hinsdale]_____	33.4000_2w_call?	(others)
"	[Illinois]_____	35.0200_2w_KB67295	(B. Parnass)
Meriwether's Restaurant	[Chicago]_____	154.6250_pg_KNAT997	(govt recds)
"	[Skokie]_____	154.6250_pg_WGQ274	(govt recds)
Mr Benny's Restaurant__	[Matteson]_____	157.7400_pg_KAZ815	(govt recds)
Mr Mike's Catering, motion picture industry	[Chicago]_____	173.2250___call?	(others)
Omega Restaurant Inc, 1300 Ogden Ave	[Downers Grove]_____	464.5875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Portillo's Hot Dogs, Inc, restaurant	[Rolling Meadows]_____	463.4875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	463.6125_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Sgt Peppers Inc, restaurant, pizza delivery	[DeKalb]_____	461.8500___KNGZ636	(B. Parnass)

Taco Bell, restaurant__	[Elmhurst]_____	460.8875_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	464.9625_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	[Joliet]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(govt recds)
"	"	30.8400_2w_call?	(govt recds)
Taco Bell, wireless microphone, at Stratford Square Mall, restaurant			
	[Bloomington]_____	460.8875_2w_call?	(others)
"	"	466.8875_2w_call?	(others)
Taco Bell, wireless microphone, restaurant			
	[Woodridge]_____	154.5700_2w_call?	(B. Parnass)
Wendys International, wireless microphone, restaurant			
	[Illinois]_____	460.8875_2w_KB94551	(others)
"	[Naperville]_____	460.8875_2w_call?	(others)
White Castle Systems, restaurants			
	[Illinois]_____	461.8125_2w_KB83810	(govt recds)
White Fence Farm, Bolingbrook restaurant			
	[Illinois]_____	154.6000_2w_KB64337	(govt recds)

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